

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The invention relates to method for separating tocopherol from a first
tocopherol admixture by heating the first tocopherol admixture composed of at least
one tocopherol, a fatty acid, and an esterifying compound to esterify the fatty acid to
produce a second tocopherol admixture composed of the tocopherol, the esterified fatty
acid, and the unesterified fatty acid; distilling the second tocopherol admixture with the
10 esterified fatty acid to remove the unesterified fatty acid from the second tocopherol
admixture to produce a third tocopherol admixture composed of the tocopherol, with
substantially removed unesterified fatty acid; distilling the third tocopherol admixture
for a sufficient time and temperature to substantially remove the tocopherol from the
third tocopherol admixture to produce a fourth tocopherol admixture composed of the
15 removed tocopherol and a non-tocol component; and extracting the tocopherol from
the fourth tocopherol admixture with an extraction solvent composed of a polar,
organic solvent that is miscible with water to produce a two phase system composed of
a first phase containing the majority of the extraction solvent and the second phase,
wherein the selectivity of the extraction solvent for tocopherol with respect to the non-
20 tocol component is greater than unity, and removing the first phase from the second
phase, with the proviso that the extraction solvent is not a neat alcohol. The invention
further relates to compositions produced by the methods of the present invention.